

CITY of BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011
6:30 PM

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Blunt, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto

ABSENT: **Brantley, **Walsh, *Vizzo-Paniccia, **Bonney, *Silva, Paoletto, *Curwen, *Baker, *Holloway

** = not present for public speaking

* = absent for both

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:50 pm.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

NAME

SUBJECT

Cecil C. Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Sewage in P.T. Barnum and
Labor Relations

Mr. Young asked if the two council members for the district Council members M. McCarthy and Brannelly had a chance to check out the raw sewage problem at P.T. Barnum. He went on to say that he wanted to leave some information with Council President McCarthy. He mentioned the reelection coming up for Council members Baker and Holloway. He said they came to his house seeking his support for city council reelection and he was in support, per a letter submitted.

He continued to speak about his labor relations issues in reference to a complaint on file for the last three years. He spoke about his concerns regarding the high dental and medical bills for him and his family. He stressed that as a taxpayer, it isn't fair that he's not receiving medical benefits, even though there was the matter of him voluntarily leaving his job at the time. He had a letter for Labor Relations asking for support from Council members Holloway and Baker pertaining to his right to receive medical benefits.

Council President McCarthy asked Mr. Young to give the document to Tom White.

Mr. Young noted that he could be heard on the radio at WGJZ from 11:30 am-11:45 am weekdays. He further noted more information was available at his website: www.cecilyoung.com

Charles McNeil

signed up to speak prior to the session

Mr. McNeil stated that he was there to represent the south end of Bridgeport in regard to Lafayette Street. He said he was happy to see the streetscape program in effect. He asked if there were any funds available for Lafayette Street, due to the fact that it's a main street in Bridgeport that surrounds many businesses. He said the area was important to address due to the sidewalks being in bad shape and the damaged trees. He also had an idea to place banners promoting the Bluefish baseball team and the Sound Tigers, noting that they will make a great impression to outside visitors. In terms of safety, he mentioned that Lafayette Street is not wide enough and he felt it should be a one-way street because it's very busy and cars have the tendency to sway into ongoing traffic. He added that there have been several accidents on that corner.

He spoke about property taxes, noting that residents have experienced a 10% increase in property tax. He expressed that many residents are concerned with the increase in taxes and not be able to make the payments. He stressed that many are considering moving out of the city.

Council President McCarthy asked Mr. McNeil if he talked to Council member A. Ayala and Council member Taylor-Moye about the matter. Mr. McNeil replied yet. Council President McCarthy stated that he should keep in touch with the council members.

**It was found that the videotaping of Mr. Young didn't record properly when he spoke first, so Council President McCarthy allowed him to speak again for the record.*

John Marshall Lee

signed up to speak prior to the session

Mr. Lee spoke about the city's finances. He read a lengthy statement that highlighted the following – *copy of statement submitted to the city clerk:*

Mr. Lee posed the following questions to ask:

- How the city looks from the outside regarding their financial rating
- Who handles the internal audit function
- Who monitors the city's balance sheet
- City Council accountability for the 2011 budget for the capital operating budget

He encouraged all taxpayers and citizens to attend the Budget & Appropriations Committee meetings as they're scheduled to obtain crucial information.

The public speaking session was closed at 7:10 pm.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 19, 2011

7:00 p.m.

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, A. Ayala, Taylor-Moye, Brantley, Walsh, T. McCarthy, Austin, Lyons, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, M. Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto

ABSENT: Council members: Vizzo-Paniccia, Silva, Curwen, Baker, Holloway

Mayor Finch called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Prayer - the prayer was offered by Council member Lyons.

Pledge of Allegiance- the pledge was led by Thomas Lyons.

Roll Call - the assistant city clerk took the roll and announced there was a quorum.

City Council Citation: Michael Wagner of Wagner's Karate Goju in recognition of his service to the community.

Michael Wagner and the youth comprised of varied ages from the Wagner Karate Goju school approached the front of council chambers to receive the citation.

Mayor Finch asked the meaning of the word "Goju" Mr. Wagner stated that the word Goju means school and the word Gojo means scholar, *words derived from the hard/soft school of karate.*

Council President McCarthy expressed that the council tries to recognize organizations and groups that have done good things in Bridgeport. He commented how Council member Lyons has spoken positively about the youth and he expressed how proud he was of all of them. He thanked Council member Lyons for her involvement in bringing organizations forward that contribute to doing good in the city.

Council member Lyons stated that Mr. Wagner was born in Bridgeport and he is an 8th degree black belt. She mentioned that he teaches all levels of martial arts. And he's also involved in the City of Bridgeport as an instructor at the Lighthouse Program and various school programs; such as, ABCD, Hall Neighborhood House, Bassick High School etc., she expressed that he is dedicated to helping young people and he also teaches at St. Augustine Church. She went on to say that the program promotes character, obedience, trustworthiness and loyalty. She further expressed that Mr. Wagner is a man of his word. She shared a story about her grandson who was having a challenging time at school; so Mr. Wagner visited the school and spoke to his teacher about how they could work together to bring the child back to applying himself. She emphasized that Mr. Wagner is highly respected and he deserved the citation.

Mayor Finch thanked everyone for being there. He asked for a brief demonstration of what the students have learned. *The students recited the numbers one through ten in Japanese.* Mayor Finch commented that he expects all the students to become great citizens in Bridgeport.

Mr. Wagner expressed his thanks for the citation. He noted that he loves the kids and he wants to help put them on the right path to achieve their purpose in life.

The students collectively recited the schools philosophy to applause.

Council member Lyons asked for a brief karate exercise demonstration. *The students demonstrated a short karate move.*

Council member Lyons presented the citation to Mr. Wagner. Mayor Finch acknowledged the parents of the students for their involvement with their children and for supporting the school's mission.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

Approval of City Council Minutes: August 1, 2011

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**
**** COUNCIL MEMBER dePARA SECONDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

Mayor Finch asked if there were any items to be removed from the consent calendar.

Council member Walsh requested to remove item * **92-10** Contracts Committee Report re: Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative, Inc. (GVI) for the contiguous City-owned property located at 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive.

The city clerk read the remaining items into the record:

***113-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Abandonments of Ocean Place and Anthony Street Associated with Improvements to Longfellow Elementary School.

***118-10** Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Grant Submission: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) 2011 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Grant Program.

* **92-10** Contracts Committee Report re: Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative, Inc. (GVI) for the contiguous City-owned property located at 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive. - *removed*

***126-10(A)** Contracts Committee Report re: Agreement with Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Inc. to create a Youth Development Park.

***126-10(B)** Contracts Committee Report re: Management and Operations Agreement with Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Inc. and Wakeman Boys and Girls Club.

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**COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch returned to item * **92-10** Contracts Committee Report re: Lease Agreement with Green Village Initiative, Inc. (GVI) for the contiguous City-owned property located at 1469 Reservoir Avenue and 20 Yaremich Drive.

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**COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN SECONDED**

Council member Walsh stated that he was still baffled by the item and the matter of placing a farm on a major thoroughfare in the city. He said he didn't have any qualms with the purpose of the project, but he had a problem with the developer not doing anything with the property for five to ten years. He said he had an issue with putting a farm there until that time. He further questioned how much tax revenue will be assessed when the property is fully developed; however, he didn't receive a clear answer. So he had a question of how much it will cost the taxpayer to do the project. He felt there was plenty of

other excess room in the city to put the farm. Overall, he had a problem with taking a piece of property associated with a developer name, but who has failed to do his job in the past is not supported by him at all.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH)**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON:

115-10 Public Safety and Transportation Committee Report re: Reappointment of Thomas A. Lyons (D) to the Board of Police Commissioners.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE
** COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**

Council member Brannelly, Co-chair of the Public Safety and Transportation Committee pointed out that item this item wasn't on the consent calendar because Co-chair Lyons had to abstain from the vote; otherwise, the vote was unanimous.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOURTEEN VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS)**

Other business:

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR
THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Walsh stated that the item to be referred concerned a grant to the Bridgeport Community Land Trust and the matter of the city not finalizing their end of the deal.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER WALSH MOVED TO REFER THE ITEM TO THE
ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Other announcements:

Council President McCarthy wished Mayor Finch and all the candidates good luck on the primary election.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANTLEY MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham
Telesco Secretarial Services